

## RARE BOOKS

### The Will of Robinson Crusoe Rarities to Be Sold in London News of Dealers and Auctions

**T**HIS week sees a sale at Scott & O'Shaughnessy's on Wednesday, May 29, and next week a sale at Sotheby's, London, at which will be offered a peculiar curiosity in the shape of the will of Robinson Crusoe.

Scott & O'Shaughnessy will dispose of the library of Col. C. McK. Looser. An unusual lot of books. English literature, the fine arts, sets of standard authors, French and Italian books, economics, folklore, bibliography, linguistics, natural history, an extensive lot of books on fine and rare wines and liquors, and many other out of the way items that should be seductive to collectors.

The sale at Sotheby's, June 3-5, will dispose of a remarkable lot of autographic material. The catalogue has just reached this side. The sale is made up in large part of material gathered by the late Lieut.-Gen. Chernside, G. C. M. G., who was a Byron collector of note. There are many manuscripts of the poet in the sale, obtained from Newstead Abbey, among them some unpublished poems. Many notes in the hand of Miss Pigot, which throw light on them and add much to the value and interest, are on the margins.

The catalogue also contains sixty-eight manuscripts of Swinburne, probably the only considerable collection of this author now available; letters of Charles and Mary Lamb not hitherto published; thirty-one letters of George Meredith containing references to his writings; the will of Robinson Crusoe, made just before he sailed on an adventurous voyage, and numerous other rare items that should interest collectors of autographs.

Catalogues may be obtained from L. C. Harper, 437 Fifth avenue, who will also receive bids.

#### Notes of the Trade.

John Howell of San Francisco has been in town for several weeks buying extensively in the recent sales.

Dealers report seeing many new faces in their shops and at the auction sales. The newcomers are all buyers too.

Max Breslow unlocked a stock of first editions at auction recently. Prices were low except for the extreme rarities.

It is remarkable how the passion to be the proprietor of a book shop is spreading. The last to exhibit it is Dr. Frank Crane, and it may be guessed that his is a case that the announced cures are not likely to remedy.

THE SUN has received the catalogue of W. A. Gough, 25 West Forty-second street, *Foot Notes to History, Part 2*. Many items not often found are listed in it.

A correspondent sends the following amusing entry taken from a bookseller's catalogue that recently came to him:

"Cooper (James Fenimore), *The Spy*,

with portrait of the author. Leipzig; Berh. Tauchnitz, Jun. 1842. Very good. Note:—Though published in Leipzig this is in English."

#### The Week's Sales.

At Anderson's, May 20-21, Americana, &c. Weather conditions prevented an attendance such as is usual to these rooms. Some very interesting items were offered but prices were only fair.

At the Walpole Galleries, May 22-24, the library of Gen. H. W. Closson, Part 2. No finer conditioned or more interesting books have been put on sale this season in any of the rooms. Prices were on a good level and the attendance was large. There are several more parts to be sold.

The sale of the Lawrence library was in progress at Anderson's when this number of *Books and the Book World* went to press.

### Azan's Splendid Book on Modern Warfare

**T**HE eight lectures which were delivered by Lieut.-Col. Paul Azan of the French army at the Lowell Institute during October and November, 1917, are now issued in book form under the title of *The Warfare of To-day* and are doubly authoritative as coming from a theorist of international reputation before the war and an actual participant in the conflict, the commander of a unit. Col. Azan, incapacitated by wounds for active service, is now a military instructor in this country.

With a mind trained to record facts Col. Azan has produced one of the best technical works on the war. Yet it is written in such an easy manner and has lost so little in translation—thanks to Major Julian L. Coolidge, U. S. R.—that any intelligent person can understand and enjoy it.

#### "War of Positions."

Col. Azan pays a notable tribute in the introduction to "my splendid soldiers of the Harvard R. O. T. C., the very flower of American youth. Those boys learned the fundamental principles and methods of modern warfare long before the official regulations had adopted them: they were thus able, not only during the training at Harvard, but subsequently, to disseminate these principles and methods."

And it is for the dissemination of military "principles and methods" that Col. Azan makes his strongest plea. The lessons of modern warfare, he reiterates, must be learned. The officers must go to school; not only fledgling leather gaiters but those officers who have studied the art of warfare only in the old school. They are the hardest to teach who "have not followed the development of offensive arms, and the resulting modification of the tactics of the battlefield"; who "have confined themselves to the study of the campaigns of Napoleon or those of the Franco-German war of 1870," with a blind adhesion to the theory that the war to be waged is a "war of movement." And Col. Azan finds that so strong has the influence of this theory been upon the majority of professional soldiers that, "after three years of experimenting the idea . . . still haunts their dreams." He tells us:

"The day when this sort of warfare reappears will be the day of victory. . . . The present war, to use a term which I have wished to see adopted . . . is a war of positions." Here Col. Azan defines his term and shows how a war of positions is waged and how the so-called trench warfare has for its first object the gaining and maintaining of positions from which an offensive can be launched. All in it!

"The essential characteristic of the present war is that, it is waged by the whole people instead of being merely the affair of the professional soldier." France first and later England made the initial

## Russia's Woman Commander Who Has Arrived in New York



FLORENCE HARPER  
AUTHOR OF  
"RUNAWAY RUSSIA"  
and  
MARIA BOTCHKAROVA  
LEADER OF THE  
BATTALION OF DEATH.

mistake of sending every available man to the firing line. Men whose value at the front was the negligible value of the half-trained soldier but whose value at home in munitions and related war industries was that of a whole army corps were sent to the front. Before they could be recalled many had been lost and with them their irreplaceable skill—irreplaceable in a time of instant need.

That was one of the great mistakes, but the greatest mistake of all, Col. Azan thinks, was the abolition of the schools for training officers the moment the war broke out, on the false assumption that every available officer was needed at the front, that there would be no time to train new officers and that the very best school for instruction was the front line.

The result in actual loss of lives can perhaps never be computed. After the Marne France realized her mistake and reestablished the training schools for officers, only to abandon them when a big drive impended. Again realizing her mistake, she has restored them as a permanent thing.

#### A Long War.

The worst bit of false reasoning in the present war, Col. Azan declares, has been the argument that it would all be over in a month; after the next drive; or before the next winter set in. Everything that was done at first was done as a temporary expedient. But now, whether in digging a trench or building a munitions shed, except in emergency, the work is done in a thorough and permanent manner.

And so with the training of officers. Col. Azan urges the training of permanent military instructors, not the training of 2,000,000 men and 150,000 officers, but the training of a permanent corps of instructors to function as the heart of the war machine. Instruction must proceed from the top downward. Says the author:

"The American army must profit by the experience of the English and the French. The blood of the men who fell in the first months of the war, because neither they nor their commanders were properly trained, must not remain as a vain sacrifice."

#### How They Fight.

A wealth of technical matter is contained in this comprehensive book. Profusely illustrated with maps and with photographs taken by the author, it contains chapters of absorbing interest on tactics and strategy, of value to the civilian who would learn but invaluable to military men who must know the technique of modern warfare.

There are chapters on the training of an army, showing the part played by

different arms; on how to prepare for attack; on the launching of an attack; on organizing a defensive position against an offensive; on organizing a retreat, and the launching of a counter offensive.

Perhaps the most interesting chapter in the book is the one entitled *How to Achieve Victory*, in which the author states the conditions essential to and the general principles which determine military success.

THE WARFARE OF TO-DAY. BY LIEUT.-COL. PAUL AZAN, French Army. Houghton Mifflin Company. \$2.50.

### "American City Progress and the Law"

**I**N *American City Progress and the Law* Prof. Howard Lee McBain takes an attitude in favor of the freedom of city government, as against the old and still existing limitation under the rule that legislatures cannot delegate legislative powers. Home rule is gaining ground, but this principle stands in the way. To give local autonomy effect by constitutional provision is difficult, as shown by the experience of the last Constitutional Convention in New York State.

The author's liberality is also shown in his discussion of the rule of strict construction applied to powers granted to municipalities. There are signs in the decisions of courts through the country of the pressure of public opinion for greater local freedom in city government, with the development of city needs and functions. Prof. McBain is in sympathy with this tendency.

The other topics treated are expanding the police power, city planning, building heights and zones, excess condemnation, municipal ownership of public utilities, control of living costs, municipal recreation and promotion of commerce and industry. They include original discussion as well as a statement of the law to-day. A table of cases makes the work convenient for the lawyer.

AMERICAN CITY PROGRESS AND THE LAW. BY HOWARD LEE MCBAIN. Columbia University Press.

### Book Exchange

W. B. BENJAMIN, 225 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, is the leading dealer in autographs of celebrities. Established 1867. Publisher "The Collector," \$1 a year. He buys and sells letters and documents and invites correspondence. Catalogues sent free. Tel. Mad. 84, 4580.

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### Captain R. Hugh Knyvett

HIS OVER THERE WITH THE AUSTRALIANS is "the first book upon Australia's part in the war and a rattling good one."—N. Y. Evening Post. \$1.50 net. CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

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